

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7233

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CY, GR, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: GOG SAYS THERE IS NO AMERICAN
MEDIATOR

1. A GREEK GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AUGUST 18 ATTEMPTED TO PUT TO REST PERSISTENT SPECULATION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. IN COMMENTS THAT WERE WIDELY REPRODUCED IN THE GREEK PRESS, THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT "THERE IS NO AMERICAN MEDIATION IN CYPRIOT OR GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS." THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT NEVERTHELESS THE UNITED STATES NATURALLY HAS AN INTEREST IN THE COURSE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS SINCE IT PROVIDES MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO BOTH NATIONS. HE WENT ON TO REPEAT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS IS THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH THE CYPRIOT PROBLEM WHILE THE GOG GIVES IT ITS SUPPORT.

2. COMMENT: THE GOG APPARENTLY FELT HEMMED IN BY PRESS REPORTS EMANATING FROM CYPRUS ABOUT THE U.S. AS MEDIATOR AND PAPANDREOU'S CHARGES THAT THE GREEK
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GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE U.S. AS "ARBITER" WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY FAVOR TURKEY. (SEE ALSO FBIS AT 211310Y NOTAL FOR PAPANDREOU'S LATEST CHARGES ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS IN THIS RESPECT AND HIS OPPOSITION TO GREEK INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY UNDER U.S. ARBITRATION.) THE SPOKESMAN'S REITERATION OF THE GOG'S POSITION ON CYPRUS UNDERLINES AS WELL THE GOG'S

SENSITIVITY TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT IT, RATHER THAN
THE GOC, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CYPRIOT AFFAIRS.
MCCLOSKEY

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